

Washington State Transportation Commission

Overall Statewide Survey Results
Registered Voters in Washington State
n=7,897; Margin of Error = ± 1.1 points
December 6th – 20th 2012
EMC #12-4658

Thank you for taking the Washington State Transportation Commission's confidential and anonymous survey about transportation issues in your local area and across the State. It is your chance to let state transportation policymakers know what is most important to you.

1. To start, using an A, B, C, D or F grading scale, how would you rate Washington's transportation system overall?
(Select an answer and press NEXT below yellow box)

A Excellent	2%	
B Above Average	24%	==> 26%
C Average	45%	==> 45%
D Below Average	21%	==> 28%
F Failing	7%	
Not sure	1%	

DEFINITION: When we say "Washington State's transportation system" we mean the roads, highways, bridges, public transit, rail, ferries, airports, sidewalks, and bike lanes that connect the state to move people and goods.

2. How would you rate the transportation system in your local area - that is in your city or town and the areas immediately surrounding it?

A Excellent	3%	
B Above Average	20%	==> 22%
C Average	42%	==> 42%
D Below Average	26%	==> 35%
F Failing	9%	
Not sure	%	

DEFINITION: When we say the transportation system in "your local area" we mean any roads, highways, bridges, public transit, rail, ferries, airports, sidewalks, or bike lanes that connect your city or town and the areas immediately surrounding it to move people and goods.

3. What grade would you give the state for making sure your area of the state gets a fair share of transportation funding?
- | | | |
|-----------------|-----|------------------|
| A Excellent | 3% | |
| B Above Average | 14% | ====> 17% |
| C Average | 36% | ====> 36% |
| D Below Average | 24% | ====> 35% |
| F Failing | 11% | |
| Not sure | 12% | |
4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The State needs additional revenue to keep our transportation system safe, effective and properly maintained.
- | | | |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|
| Strongly Agree | 29% | |
| Somewhat Agree | 33% | ====> 62% |
| Somewhat Disagree | 17% | |
| Strongly Disagree | 16% | ====> 33% |
| Not sure | 5% | |
5. In general, would you support or oppose raising some transportation taxes and fees to increase funding for transportation?
- | | | |
|------------------|-----|------------------|
| Strongly Support | 19% | |
| Somewhat Support | 32% | ====> 51% |
| Somewhat Oppose | 17% | |
| Strongly Oppose | 29% | ====> 46% |
| Not sure | 3% | |
6. Would you support or oppose raising some transportation taxes and fees to increase funding for transportation if it would cost the average Washington family like yours an additional \$30 a month?
- | | | |
|------------------|-----|------------------|
| Strongly Support | 11% | |
| Somewhat Support | 21% | ====> 32% |
| Somewhat Oppose | 19% | |
| Strongly Oppose | 45% | ====> 65% |
| Not sure | 4% | |

(IF OPPOSED/NOT SURE ASK Q7)

7. What if it cost the average Washington family like yours an additional \$15 a month?
- | | | |
|------------------|-----|------------------|
| Strongly Support | 2% | |
| Somewhat Support | 22% | ====> 24% |
| Somewhat Oppose | 25% | |
| Strongly Oppose | 48% | ====> 72% |
| Not sure | 4% | |

(IF OPPOSED/NOT SURE ASK Q8)

8. What if it cost the average Washington family like yours an additional \$7.50 a month?

Strongly Support	2%	
Somewhat Support	21%	====> 22%
Somewhat Oppose	23%	
Strongly Oppose	50%	====> 73%
Not sure	5%	

(RESUME ASKING EVERYONE)

This next section is about transportation priorities. Please read the statement below and then press NEXT.

The Connecting Washington Task Force, a group of business leaders and local government, labor, and environmental leaders issued a report outlining a 10 year transportation strategy. The Task Force estimated that it will require an additional \$5 billion per year over the next 10 years to fund our transportation system. Because of the difficult economy, the Task Force proposed a lower \$2.1 billion per year in transportation investments to maintain our existing transportation system and provide some funds to meet the economic and travel needs of a growing population.

For each transportation category in the table below, please indicate what percentage, if any, of the need you would fund.

Note: This table shows the \$2.1 billion per year in transportation needs by category along with a rough estimate of what it would cost the average household PER MONTH to completely fund that need.

You can give each category any percentage from 0% to 100% depending on how much you feel it should be funded. After you have responded for all 5 categories, the next page will show the total amount you chose to fund and the rough cost PER MONTH.

	Total Needed PER YEAR	Cost to Fund 100%	Avg % Funded	Avg \$ Funded	Est Avg MONTHLY Cost
9. Preservation and maintenance of the existing transportation system	\$1.0 Billion	\$33/Month	45%	\$454M	\$14.85
10. Adding new lanes and expanding road and bridge capacity	\$660 Million	\$22/Month	24%	\$159M	\$5.28
11. Increasing transit service and expanding passenger and freight rail	\$264 Million	\$9/Month	38%	\$99M	\$3.42
12. Making bike and sidewalk improvements	\$33 Million	\$1/Month	30%	\$10M	\$0.30
13. Replacing obsolete ferries and improving ferry terminals	\$143 Million	\$5/Month	29%	\$41M	\$1.45
Total	\$2.1 Billion	\$70/Month	36%	\$763M	\$25.20

This next section is about new taxes and fees to fund transportation needs. Please read the information below and then press NEXT.

The table on the next page gives estimates of how much different taxes/fees would raise for transportation and how much the new taxes/fees would cost the average household based on the following state averages:

Vehicles Owned: 2.5 Vehicles
Vehicle Value: \$6,200 per vehicle
Miles Driven: 10,000 miles per vehicle per year
Miles per Gallon: 20 MPG average

The cost to your household could be lower or higher depending on how many vehicles you own, how much you drive, what kind of gas mileage you get and how much your vehicles are worth.

For each of the 3 transportation taxes/fees in the table below – the Gas Tax, Motor Vehicle Excise Tax, and Vehicle License Fee, please indicate which tax/fee increases, if any, you support to fund those needs.

NOTE: All new revenue would only be used for transportation purposes.

14. Amount Raised Total Cost Gas Tax - currently 37.5 cents a gallon

5¢/gal increase (\$155 M/yr) (\$5.21/mo.)	24%	
10¢/gal increase (\$310 M/yr) (\$10.42/mo.)	14%	
15¢/gal increase (\$465 M/yr) (\$15.63/mo.)	15%	==> 53%
No Gas Tax increase	47%	

15. Motor Vehicle Excise Tax - currently no state MVET

0.7% MVET (\$250 M/yr) (\$9.04/mo.)	25%	
1.5% MVET (\$536 M/yr) (\$19.38/mo.)	14%	
2.4% MVET (\$858 M/yr) (\$31.05/mo.)	12%	==> 52%
No State MVET	48%	

16. Vehicle License Fee - currently \$30 per year

\$20 VLF increase (\$158 M/yr) (\$4.17/mo.)	33%	
\$45 VLF increase (\$355 M/yr) (\$9.38/mo.)	15%	
\$100 VLF increase (\$790 M/yr) (\$20.87/mo.)	7%	==> 55%
No VLF increase	45%	

17. Based on the above averages, compared to the type of vehicles you own and how much you drive, in general do you think the total transportation taxes you pay are higher, lower, or about the same as the average Washington household?

Much higher than average	8%	
Somewhat higher than average	19%	====> 27%
About the same	34%	====> 34%
Somewhat lower than average	22%	====> 34%
Much lower than average	12%	
Not sure	5%	

18. The state gas tax currently provides 76% of all state transportation funding. A combination of inflation, changing driving habits and increased fuel economy of vehicles, along with the growing numbers of electric vehicles, makes the gas tax an unsustainable transportation revenue source long-term. Meanwhile transportation needs (like maintaining our existing roads/bridges, building new roads/bridges, enhancing transit service, etc.) continue to expand with population growth. Knowing this, do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The State needs additional revenue to keep our transportation system safe, effective and properly maintained.

Strongly Agree	25%	
Somewhat Agree	40%	====> 65%
Somewhat Disagree	14%	
Strongly Disagree	18%	====> 32%
Not Sure	3%	

19. Before this survey, were you aware or not of the funding challenges created by relying on the gas tax to provide three-fourths of our transportation revenue?

Yes aware of funding shortfall	51%
No not aware of funding shortfall	29%
Don't agree that there is a funding shortfall	21%

There are a number of long term funding options being considered to address the state's long-term transportation financial challenges. For each revenue source, please indicate whether or not you think that method is a good way to help provide future funding for our transportation system.

	Definitely	Probably	Probably Not	Definitely Not	Not Sure	Def/Prob
20. A statewide property tax dedicated to state and local transportation projects	5%	20%	21%	50%	4%	25%
21. A vehicle emissions fee - vehicles that pollute more would pay a higher fee	30%	33%	13%	21%	2%	63%
22. A fee based on the number of miles driven - people pay for what they use by the mile instead of by the gallon	15%	24%	19%	37%	5%	39%
23. Adding the sales tax to gas purchases	10%	21%	18%	47%	3%	31%
24. Electronic tolling where feasible to pay for major state projects statewide	19%	35%	14%	28%	4%	54%
25. An annual fee on vehicles that get over 50 miles per gallon – people with high MPG vehicles who pay lower gas taxes would be charged an additional fee	17%	21%	19%	38%	5%	38%

The next set of questions are about electronic tolling, that is, charging drivers a fee on some major highways and bridges in such a way that drivers do not have to stop at toll booths.

26. In general, do you support or oppose tolling as a way to help pay for new state transportation projects?

Strongly Support	21%	
Somewhat Support	40%	====> 61%
Somewhat Oppose	15%	
Strongly Oppose	23%	====> 37%
Not sure	2%	

NOTE: Electronically collected tolls are used in several places in Washington to help pay for new construction of state transportation projects like the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and the 520 Bridge in Seattle.

27. In general, do you support or oppose using tolls as a way to help pay to maintain and improve some existing state highways and bridges?

Strongly Support	18%	
Somewhat Support	40%	====> 58%
Somewhat Oppose	17%	
Strongly Oppose	23%	====> 40%
Not sure	2%	

NOTE: This would be placing tolls on some existing roads and bridges to help fund ongoing maintenance needs and pay for needed improvements that are currently unfunded. For example, using tolling to fund Snoqualmie pass snow removal, avalanche control, and pay for long-term improvements to minimize pass closures?

28. In general, do you support or oppose using tolls as a way to help manage traffic congestion?

Strongly Support	14%	
Somewhat Support	31%	====> 46%
Somewhat Oppose	19%	
Strongly Oppose	30%	====> 49%
Not sure	5%	

NOTE: What about using tolling to manage traffic congestion? Roads and bridges that serve the same travel corridor would be tolled to reduce diversion to the “free route” and manage congestion on both roads. An example would be to toll both SR 520 and Interstate 90 to balance and manage traffic flows across Lake Washington.

29. Which of the following statements on the use of toll money is closest to your opinion:

Tolls Benefit Specific Project Only:

Toll money should only be used for the construction and maintenance of the specific road or bridge where the toll is collected. For example, tolls collected on the SR 520 bridge should only be used for construction and maintenance of the SR 520 bridge. 36%

Tolls Benefit Project plus Local Travel Corridor:

Toll money should be available to fund maintenance and improvements on roads and bridges within the travel corridor. For example, tolls collected on the SR 520 bridge could be spent on the SR 520 bridge AND the 520 highway and I-5 and I-405 connections to the 520 bridge. 38%

Tolls Benefit All Toll Projects Statewide:

Toll money should not be limited to any specific toll project or corridor. Money should be pooled and used to benefit all toll projects in the state. For example if the SR 520 bridge and I-90 bridge were tolled the money would be combined and dedicated to helping fund and operate all toll projects statewide. 18%

Not Sure 8%

30. Regardless which toll option you chose, do you think toll money should be available to help fund transit?

Yes Toll money should be available for transit	41%
No Toll money should not be available for transit	49%
Not Sure	11%

I'd like to ask you about an annual fee on vehicles that get over 50 miles per gallon. This fee would help recover some of the gas tax revenues that these drivers of high MPG cars do not currently pay so that all drivers contribute their share to transportation funding.

31. In general, do you support or oppose a \$200 per year flat fee on vehicles that get over 50 miles per gallon?

Strongly Support	15%	
Somewhat Support	22%	==> 37%
Somewhat Oppose	18%	
Strongly Oppose	41%	==> 58%
Not sure	5%	

(IF OPPOSED/NOT SURE ASK Q32)

32. What about a flat fee of \$125 per year on vehicles that get over 50 miles per gallon?

Strongly Support	1%	
Somewhat Support	10%	==> 11%
Somewhat Oppose	25%	
Strongly Oppose	58%	==> 83%
Not sure	6%	

(IF OPPOSED/NOT SURE ASK Q33)

33. What about a flat fee of \$50 per year on vehicles that get over 50 miles per gallon?

Strongly Support	2%	
Somewhat Support	21%	==> 23%
Somewhat Oppose	19%	
Strongly Oppose	53%	==> 72%
Not sure	5%	

(RESUME ASKING EVERYONE)

34. Please think about all the trips you (not everyone in your household) make from home during a typical week such as going to work, running errands, or going to appointments. Approximately what percentage of those trips per week are done by:

Driving alone in your vehicle	56%
Carpooling or driving with someone else	25%
Riding public transit	10%
Riding a motorcycle	1%
Riding a bicycle or walking instead of driving or transit	6%
Traveling some other way	2%

And finally a few questions for statistical purposes only:

35. How many total miles would you say you (not everyone in your household) drive in an average year?

Less than 5000 miles	23%
5000 to 9999 miles	34%
10000 to 14999 miles	26%
15000 to 19999 miles	8%
20000 or more miles	7%
Not sure	2%

36. Would you describe the area you live in as:

Urban City	30%
Suburban	31%
Small town	17%
Rural	21%
Not sure	1%

Gender

Male	47%
Female	51%
Refused/Prefer not to answer	2%

Age Range

18-24	7%
25-34	13%
35-44	14%
45-54	17%
55-64	23%
65+	20%
Refused	7%

(RTPO) - Regional and Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organizations

BFWW	5%
NE WA	1%
N. Central	2%
Palouse	1%
Peninsula	6%
PSRC	51%
Quad Co	2%
Skagit/Island	3%
Spokane	7%
SW RTC	7%
SW RTPO	4%
Thurston	4%
Whatcom	3%
Yakima	4%